

## Appendix III

### Public Mail Survey

#### *Public Letter #1*

mailed on August 8, 2003

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August 8, 2003

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Washington County Landowner:

Thank you for taking fifteen minutes of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. We are working with the Washington County Commissioners Office and a host of fire protection and disaster relief organizations in Washington County to develop a wildland fire mitigation plan in your area. As an individual who own property in Washington County, you know that the wildland-rural interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to forest and range fires. We all witnessed the fires in 2000 that ravaged western Montana and Central Idaho. This year's fire season is burning aggressively Idaho, especially in our area.

However, we are doing more than watching for fires this year, we are taking a proactive role in reducing fire starts and mitigating wildland fire caused casualty loss in your area. We are inviting you to take a proactive role as well.

We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved land management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread on forestlands and rangelands, and working with rural landowners to create defensible zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take your valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

We would like you to complete the attached survey about your home's defensible space in the case of wildfire. Your responses will be kept completely confidential and released only in aggregated form. This questionnaire will allow us to identify key criteria that may place your home and the homes of your neighbors at the greatest risk. We will use this information to develop mitigation activities that may lead to saving your home and the community you live in.

We have sent this letter and survey to only a select number of people in Washington County. Because of this, your response is very important to our efforts and the application of our findings to your home and to your community. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it to us in the self addressed envelope.

We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping of Washington County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images

taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5" x 11" sizes. If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of this property and send it to you. The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow, Idaho, at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William E. Schlosser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Washington County Fire Mitigation Plan

Northwest Management, Inc.

## Washington County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan

### ***Public Survey***

1. Do you have a home in Washington County?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
2. Is this your primary residence?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
3. Which community do you live closest to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does your area have 911 emergency telephone service?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
5. Is your home protected by a rural fire department?
  - ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
6. What type of roof does your home have (please mark one):
  - ☐ Composite
  - ☐ Wooden shake (shingles)
  - ☐ Ceramic tiles
  - ☐ Aluminum, tin, or other metal
  - ☐ Other (please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_)
7. How many trees are within 250 feet of your home?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25
  - ☐ More than 25
8. How many trees are within 75 feet of your home?
  - ☐ None
  - ☐ less than 10
  - ☐ Between 10 and 25
  - ☐ More than 25
9. Do you have a lawn surrounding your home?
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ Yes, if yes is it kept green and trimmed all summer?
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ Yes

10. How long is your driveway, from the main road to your home parking area? Please indicate distance units in feet or miles.

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Feet
- ☐ Miles

11. If your driveway is over ½ mile long, does it have turnouts that would allow two trucks to pass each other?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

12. If the primary access to your home were cut off because of a wildfire, would you have an alternative route to escape through?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

13. Please indicate which of the following items you have available at or near your home that could be used in fighting a wildland fire that threatens your home (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Hand tools (shovel, pualski, etc.)
- ☐ Portable water tank
- ☐ Stationery water tank
- ☐ Pond, lake, or stream water supply close
- ☐ Water pump and fire hose
- ☐ Equipment suitable for creating fire breaks (bulldozer, cat, skidder, etc.)

14. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic wildland fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

15. Has anyone in your household been trained in basic structural fire fighting?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

16. Do you conduct a periodic fuels reduction program near your home site such as grass or brush burning?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

17. Do livestock (cattle, horses, sheep) graze the grasses and forbs around your home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

18. Use this exercise below to assess your home's fire risk rating:  
Circle the ratings in each category that best describes your home.

<b>Fuel Hazard Rating Worksheet</b>		<b>Rating</b>
<b>Fuel Hazard</b>	Small, light fuels (grasses, forbs, weeds, shrubs)	1
	Medium size fuels (brush, large shrubs, small trees)	2
	Heavy, large fuels (woodlands, timber, heavy brush)	3
<b>Slope Hazard</b>	Mild slopes (0-5%)	1
	Moderate slope (6-20%)	2
	Steep Slopes (21-40%)	3
	Extreme slopes (41% and greater)	4
<b>Structure Hazard</b>	Noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding materials	1
	Noncombustible roof and combustible siding material	3
	Combustible roof and noncombustible siding material	7
	Combustible roof and combustible siding materials	10
<b>Additional Factors</b>	Rough topography that contains several steep canyons or ridges	+2
	Areas having history of higher than average fire occurrence	+3
	Areas exposed to severe fire weather and strong winds	+4
	Areas with existing fuel modifications or usable fire breaks	-3
	Areas with local facilities (water systems, rural fire districts, dozers)	-3

#### Calculating your risk

Fuel hazard \_\_\_\_\_ x Slope Hazard \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Structural hazard + \_\_\_\_\_

Additional factors (+ or -) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hazard Points = \_\_\_\_\_

**Extreme Risk = 26 + points**

**High Risk = 16–25 points**

**Moderate Risk = 6–15 points**

**Low Risk = 6 or less points**

19. If offered in your area, would members of your household attend a free, or low cost, one-day training seminar designed to teach homeowners in the wildland–urban interface how to improve the defensible space surrounding your home and adjacent outbuildings?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

20. Would you be interested in participating in a cost share program that would pay a portion of the costs of implementing fire risk projects on your property?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Thank you very much for completing this survey and sending it back to us. This information will be combined with other data to assess the greatest threats to defending homes and adjacent buildings in the wildland–urban interface where wildland fires are common.

Please place the completed survey in the self addressed envelope and place it in the mail for return to us. Thank you!

## Order Your Washington County Area Map **FREE**

As a token of appreciation for completing and returning this survey, we would like to send you a detailed map of your favorite area. Complete this form and return it to us with your survey and we will custom print a color map of your property and send it to you. Maps are at a scale of approximately 1:12,000 showing 1 square mile at its center.

What is the legal land description of the property you want mapped (must be in Washington County).

\_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ N, R \_\_\_\_\_ E.

or describe the area \_\_\_\_\_

About how many acres is the parcel you want mapped? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

What would you like printed as the title of the map? (Five or less words, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select which coverage (only one per map) you would like as the primary theme:

- ☐ Land Ownership Categories (over shaded relief map)
- ☐ Ortho photo (limited availability)
- ☐ Fire Prone Landscapes

All maps include:

- Roads
- Streams & rivers
- Community locations
- Building locations (where available)
- Township, Range, and Sections (property lines are not included)
- Hillshade relief placed in the background to provide representation of slope and elevation.

**Please verify your name and full address here so we can send your map to you:**

Our records indicate that your address is: \_\_\_\_\_ If this is incorrect please correct it here:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## **Public Letter #2**

sent as a postcard on August 20, 2003

August 20, 2003

Dear Washington County Resident:

About two weeks ago, I mailed you a letter and a brief survey concerning the wildfire situation in your community. That survey is instrumental to the success of the Fire Mitigation Plan we are developing in conjunction with the Washington County Commissioners Office. We have received responses from many families in the area and we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has participated. However, we still have not received completed surveys from many homes in the region. If you have not returned the completed survey to us yet, please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the self-addressed envelope provided with the survey.

Your responses are very important to this effort which will recommend the location and type of fire mitigation projects to be implemented in the area of your home. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact me at 208-883-4488. If you did not receive my original letter, or if you misplaced your survey, you can request a new one at the telephone number below or write me requesting another survey.

Thank you for your time and your assistance with this project!



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

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**Northwest Management, Inc.**

Natural Resource Management

233 Palouse River Dr., P.O. Box 9748, Moscow ID 83843

Tel: 208-883-4488, Fax 208-883-1098, <http://www.Consulting-Foresters.com/>



### ***Public letter #3***

Sent on September 1, 2003 and included a replacement survey (not included here).

September 1, 2003

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Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Washington County Landowner:

Thank you for taking fifteen minutes of your time to read and respond to this short inquiry. Last month I sent you a letter and package of materials much like this one. In that letter, I asked if you would please assist our efforts by reading, filling out, and returning a short survey concerning a **wildland fire mitigation plan** we are preparing for Washington County in cooperation with the Washington County Commissioners Office. I sent a short postcard reminding you of that package just over a week ago. While we have received excellent responses from many residents of the area, we have not received it from everyone. ***If you have completed and returned your survey, please accept our sincere thanks!*** If you have not returned the completed survey, please do so as soon as possible.

You are in an unique situation to provide valuable insights and information concerning the fire risks to your home and property in Washington County. Without this information, our recommendations for specific fire risk mitigation activities will not be targeted appropriately to where the risks are located. I have enclosed another survey and return envelope for you. Please complete it and drop it in the mail so that we can include your information with that from your neighbors. ***We need your help.***

As an individual with a home and property in Washington County, you know that the wildland-urban interface is at very high risk to casualty loss due to forest fires. We are developing improved predictive models of where fires are likely to ignite, locating and identifying high risk landscape characteristics, advancing improved forest and range management practices to reduce fire rate-of-spread, and working with rural landowners to create defensible zones around homes and buildings so that fires are controlled BEFORE they take your valuable possessions. It is the last of these goals that we need your help with.

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We would like to thank you for your assistance on this project with a small token of appreciation. During the development of this project, we are completing some very advanced mapping Washington County. We have created detailed maps showing roads, rivers, elevation, fire prone landscapes, potential fire ignition locations, plant cover characteristics, and even orthophoto coverage (black and white images taken from high elevation) with features over them. These maps are printed at 8.5" x 11" sizes. **If you give us a legal land description, we will make a high resolution map of your property and send it to you.** The map might be the locale of your home, your property, or even your favorite recreation spot. When you complete your survey, please mark which map coverage you would like, and we will custom color print this map for you and send it at no charge. It is our way of thanking you for your input to this very important project.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions about this project or this survey please contact me at the Northwest Management, Inc., office in Moscow, Idaho, at 208-883-4488.

Sincerely,



William E. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Washington County Fire Mitigation Plan

Northwest Management, Inc.